(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) The Nepalese Government has recently made it compulsory for all religious schools, including madarsas in Nepal to get registered with the local authorities and to submit their income and expenditure accounts to the respective District Administration Office by mid-March 2002.

(b) to (e) The decision of HMGN to regulate the functioning and finances of Madarsas would help in preventing them from engaging in activities incompatible with their stated objectives. The issue was also discussed during the Home Secretary-level talks between India and Nepal held at New Delhi from February 6-7, 2002. The Government of Nepal has given the assurance that it would not allow its territory to be used for activities inimical to India's interest.

Afghanistan's request for assistance

1257. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the interim Government of Afghanistan has requested India's assistance in setting up schools and colleges;

(b) if so, whether in addition to this, the Afghan Government has urged for having a medical services and other social infrastructure;

(c) whether Government have agreed to help and assist the Afghan Government;

(d) whether he met the Prime Minister of Afghanistan during his visit in December, 2001; and

(e) if so, what were the main points discussed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) India is committed to provide humanitarian relief, reconstruction

and rehabilitation in post conflict Afghanistan. The Government of India and the Interim Administration of Afghanistan have agreed on several areas of cooperation, including in the field of Health, Education, Information Technology, Public Transport, Industry, Energy and Training. The cooperation in the field of Education includes construction of schools. The specific projects relating to construction of schools will be finalized in consultation with the Afghan Interim Administration.

(d) and (e) As part of our continuing bilateral political interaction with the Afghan Interim Administration, the Chairman of the Afghan Interim Administration, H.E. Hamid Karzai paid a state visit to India on 26-27 February, 2002. During his visit, all issues of bilateral cooperation, specifically those relating to reconstruction and rehabilitation in post conflict Afghanistan were discussed. In addition to a US$ 10 million grant announced by the Prime Minister, both sides agreed to work on project assistance in the fields of Education, Health, Information Technology, Public Transport, Energy and Training. The visit of Chairman Karzai opened a new chapter in Indo-Afghan relations.

Vocational training to Women and Girls

1258. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Employment & Training is providing vocational training to women and girls in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof, vocation wise; and

(c) the number of women and girls that benefited during the last three years, year-wise and district wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) Vocational Training is provided to men and women in all the Vocational Training Institutes which are set up by the Directorate General of Employment & Training and the State/UT Governments. The Directorate General of Employment & Training has set up 11 Institutes for Vocational Training exclusively